

Appn. No.: 09/316,795
Amdt. Dated: June 17, 2005
Reply to Final Office Action dated April 27, 2005

Remarks/Arguments

Reconsideration of this Application is requested.

Claims 1 - 6 and 6 -21 have been rejected by the Examiner, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Boies et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,006,200) in view of Moore (U.S. Patent 5,452,203), Whitehouse (U.S. patent 6,005,945) and Allum (U.S. Patent No. 5,420,403).

Boies discloses the following in lines 30-64 of column 2:

"The process is illustrated in more detail in FIGS. 2A, 2B and 2C, to which reference is now made. A transaction begins at block 201 with the user wanting a product that cannot be sent electronically, i.e., over the Internet. An initial determination is made in decision block 202 as to whether the user has an address code. If not, the mailing address information is collected from the user in function block 203. Next, in function block 204, the registry is contacted to obtain an address code. This routine is shown in more detail in FIG. 2B and begins with validating the address in function block 205. An address code is assigned in function block 206, and this code is saved in function block 207 to the shipping company's master file database 208 before a return is made in function block 209 to the main routine in FIG. 2A where the code is displayed and saved to the user's computer in function block 210.

Referring again to FIG. 2A, once the user has an address code then a determination is made in decision block 211 as to whether the address code is available. If not, the user is prompted to enter the address code in function block 212; otherwise, the code is directly retrieved from the user's hard disk in function block 213. The address code is added to the order form in function block 214, and the order is submitted in function block 215.

Referring now to FIG. 2C, when the vendor receives the order, the vendor optionally creates a printed, machine readable representation of the address code on the shipping label in function block 216. The address code is printed to on [sic] the shipping label in function block 217, and the package is sent to the shipping company in function block 218. The shipping company uses the machine readable address code printed on the shipping label to access the master file 208 (FIG. 2B) to

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retrieve the user's shipping [sic] address for delivery of the package."

Boies discloses the following in column 2, lines 11-22:

"The method used in this invention is to employ a third party vendor to supply a unique identifier to the customer that maps to the customer's name and address in a database owned by the third party. The personal identifier is a multi-digit numeric or alphanumeric code assigned to a customer, as indicated at 10. This code is an accepted field by the vendor 12 that is used for shipping purposes. The shipper 14 is the creator and custodian of the codes. It generates a unique code for each customer, which code is associated with the customer's full shipping address and, optionally, the customer's name, permitting shipment to be made to the customer 16."

In other words, Boies' customer receives a customer number that is assigned by the shipper of the goods 14. Boies' customer would give the customer number to the seller of the goods to remain anonymous. The seller, in turn, would give the customer number to the shipper with the goods. Then the shipper would obtain the customer's address from the customer number.

Boies is not determining in one or more data bases that recipient's name is listed with recipient's desired delivery address and is the address to which the owner of the virtual post office box wants the mail forwarded, wherein the forwarding information may be sent by telephone, physical mail, or facsimile. For instance, when the customer gives Boies' seller the customer number, which may contain many alphanumeric characters, the customer may communicate with the seller over the telephone and give the seller the incorrect customer number, or the seller may copy the customer number incorrectly. The seller may also give the incorrect customer number. Thus, the goods may be delivered to the wrong party.

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Moore's United States Patent 5,452,203 discloses the following in col. 1, lines 46-60:

"For example, assuming a shipper's customer shipping list includes the address "Pitney Bowes Inc., 35 Waterview Drive, Shelton, Conn. 06484", and the shipper attempts to sanitize its shipping list in order to add the zip-code. IN practice, the database of mailing addresses and customer shipping list are processed in a personal computer programmed to make a comparison between the respective addresses in the database and shipping list and generate a sanitized customer shipping list which includes the proper mailing address. When this occurs the sanitized shipping list will include the address "Pitney Bowes, Inc., Box 3000, Shelton, Conn. 06484-8000", since the mailing address for Pitney Bowes' 35 Waterview Drive facility is a Post Office Box and not the facility itself."

Thus, Moore discloses an apparatus for correcting addresses.

Allum et al. discloses the following in his abstract:

"Mail can be sorted automatically to point of delivery level by deriving from the address including postal code on a piece of mail a suffix which together with the postal code forms routing data which uniquely identifies the final delivery address. This is achieved automatically at the Post office sorting facility by means of an optical character reader which reads the addresses on mail items and a computer arranged to generate a suffix based on the address read. The routing data is printed as a bar code on the mail item and this allows the complete sortation to be effected automatically. Also contemplated is a progressive encoding system which can be applied as bar codes by customers as desired to mail pieces. The basic data is the routing data set to which can be added a shipment number which allows automatic revenue accounting control and a piece number which allows automatic track and trace. Finally, the customer may also progressively encode return mail envelopes with the shipment number followed by a product code and a user defined field which permits automatic specialized handling of the return mail item."

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The bar code disclosed by Allum in Figs. 7 and 8 is nothing more than the Canadian equivalent of the United States Postal Service's post net bar code. The post net bar code allows postal sorting equipment to sort mail pieces to recipient's building. In many areas, office buildings and apartment houses contain many occupants. Thus, without the recipient's name, the letter carrier would not know which occupant should receive the mail piece.

Whitehouse discloses the following in lines 57-65 of column 12:

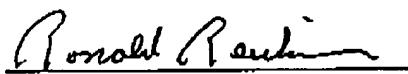
"The central computer, after decrypting the request message, validates the postal indicium request by verifying the digital signature, if any, in the request, and validating the meter or account ID and account password in the request message (step 202, by validation procedure 161). If the meter/account ID does not correspond to an active postage dispensing account, or if the password is incorrect, an error message is returned to the request sender."

Whitehouse is verifying a digital signature. Boies et al, Allum et al., Whitehouse, or Moore, taken separately or together, do not disclose or anticipate the invention claimed by Applicants in claim 1 and those claims dependent thereon. The cited references do not disclose or anticipate the steps of determining in one or more data bases that recipient's name is listed with recipient's desired delivery address and is the address to which the owner of the virtual post office box wants the mail forwarded, wherein the forwarding information may be sent by telephone, physical mail, or facsimile and placing recipient's desired delivery address on mail in coded form and human-readable form. The foregoing insures that the mail could be delivered to the recipient.

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In view of the above, claims 1 and 6-22, are patentable. If the Examiner has any questions, would he please telephone the undersigned at the telephone number noted below.

Respectfully submitted,


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